SPORT

MILAN: Inter Milan goalkeeper Yann Sommer fails to save a shot by Arsenal's Viktor Gyokeres during their UEFA Champions League match at San Siro.—AFP

LISBON: Sporting Lisbon's Luis Suarez heads to score during the match against Paris St Germain at the Jose Alvalade Stadium.—AFP

BODO: Bodo/Glimt's Jens Hauge (L) scores during the match against Manchester City at Aspmyra Stadion.—Reuters

MADRID: Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham scores during the game against Monaco at Santiago Bernabeu.—AFP

City humiliated, holders PSG stumble as Arsenal reach last 16

PARIS: Manchester City were on the wrong side of one of the biggest shocks in Champions League history on Tuesday, stunned 3-1 at tiny Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt, while holders Paris St Germain suffered a 2-1 defeat at Sporting Lisbon as Luis Suarez completed his brace scoring the winner in the 90th minute.

Arsenal became the first team to secure direct qualification for the round of 16 after a 3-1 victory at Inter Milan, maintaining their 100% record in the league stage after seven rounds, while Kylian Mbappe scored a brace and Vinicius Junior turned jeers from his own fans to cheers by scoring for Real Madrid in a 6-1 win over Monaco.

It wasn't a good day for the Bundesliga clubs as 10-man Borussia Dortmund were defeated 2-0 by Tottenham Hotspur and Bayer Leverkusen fell to a 2-0 loss at Olympiacos.

Elsewhere, Ajax came from behind to beat Villarreal 2-1, FC Copenhagen snatched a 1-1 draw with Napoli with 10 men and Club Brugge beat Kairat Almaty 4-1.

Pep Guardiola's squad of City superstars arrived in chilly Bodo, a Norwegian fishing town 200km north of the Arctic Circle whose team is playing in the Champions League for the first time this season. for their seventh and penultimate league-phase match as hot favourites.

But they came unstuck in the freezing conditions as Kasper Hogh's first half-brace and a second half strike from Jens Petter Hauge at the ecstatic 8,000-capacity Aspmyra Stadion triggered a seismic upset.

Rayan Cherki replied after Hauge's goal, but Rodri's dismissal for two bookings left City in tatters and facing a long trip home.

"In the end, it's embarrassing," said City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland, whose team was coming off an abject derby loss to Manchester United in the Premier League on Saturday.

While the pitch may have been artificial there was nothing false about the result, Bodo/Glimt's first group stage win which gave them hope of making the play-offs.

"I feel amazing! I think we played a really good game today and we know we're playing a world-class team," Bodo/Glimt coach Kjetil Knutsen said.

City didn't look like a team that has had $500 million spent on players over the last 12 months, with their flimsy, injury-hit defence constantly pierced on the counterattack. The hosts had two would-be goals disallowed for narrow offside decisions and also hit the crossbar.

Glimt broke the deadlock in the 22nd after Ole Didrik Blomberg stumbled inside the box, but kept possession and lifted the ball for Høgh's header. Just two minutes later, Høgh added a second goal to his name and Hauge curled into the top corner in the 58th to make it 3-0.

Cherki cut the deficit for the guests in the 60th but things got more complicated when Rodri was sent off.

"Everything has started to be, since the new year, against us in many, many things," said Guardiola. "I know how good a team Bodo are. I didn't underestimate them. There is not much I know but they reached the semi-final last season of the Europa League and they were fresh in mind.

"We arrived in some departments without important players who give consistency to the team. They are a little bit fragile, as they were last season in a certain period. How they fought 10 against 11, a lot of players made a step up, but we have to change the dynamic quick for the next game against Wolves and after that for the last game against Galatasaray."

Colombia international Suarez's 90th-minute header earned Sporting victory over PSG, who — like City —have work to do in next week's final round to qualify automatically to the last 16 by finishing in the top eight and avoid needing to go through the two-legged playoffs for a second straight season.

Suarez put Sporting ahead before an equaliser by substitute Khvicha Kvaratskhelia after 79 minutes.

PSG, who became European champions for the first time last season, dropped to fifth and City to seventh.

Arsenal, meanwhile, are now on their longest-ever winning streak in the Champions League and are guaranteed a top-two finish.

Gabriel Jesus scored the first two goals at San Siro for the Premier League leaders and the man he started ahead of — Viktor Gyokeres — came off the bench to net the third.

"It's a dream night," said the 28-year-old Jesus. "I always dreamed of being a footballer. I watched when I was a kid. I watched a lot of Serie A, so to be here in this stadium and score here is tears in my eyes because I always dreamed of being here."

The Gunners took an early lead when Jesus slid to poke a finish into the net in the 10th but they failed to fully clear the leftovers after Marcus Thuram's effort and Petar Sucic took control of the ball to level for Inter in the 18th.

Jesus, however, nodded in the rebound from Leandro Trossard's header and complete his brace in the 31st before Gyokeres put the game to bed in the 84th as Inter, the heavily beaten finalists last season who have lost three straight games in the competition for the first time, slipped to ninth place.

MBAPPE LEADS GALA NIGHT FOR REAL

Real, under new coach Alvaro Arbeloa, produced a dazzling attacking display to help fans forget recent disappointments and lift the record 15-time European champions from seventh to second behind unstoppable Arsenal.

Mbappe broke the deadlock for Real against his former side in the fifth minute, sweeping home a pass from Federico Valverde at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. He found the net a second time in the 26th, completing a play initiated by a fabulous backheel pass from Eduardo Camavinga.

Franco Mastantuono added his name to the scoresheet in 51st before Thilo Kehrer scored an own goal four minutes later when trying to clear a cross from Vinicius.

Part of the crowd had jeered Vin cius nearly every time he touched the ball, like during Saturday's La Liga win over Levante. The Brazil forward has been having an underwhelming season and some fans view him as one of the reasons why coach Xabi Alonso was replaced last week.

However, the home fans were applauding Vin cius after his solo goal that made it 5-0 in the 63rd minute.

Monaco managed to pull one back through Jordan Teze in the 72nd but Jude Bellingham completed the huge win for Madrid in the 80th.

"It was a very beautiful moment," Vinicius Jr told Movistar about his goal. "I had given many assists and all of my team-mates were saying I had to score. It's important to have my team-mate's trust, we're a family."

There was some much needed respite for under-fire Tottenham boss Thomas Frank as Cristian Romero and Dominic Solanke scored against 2024 runners-up Dortmund, who had midfielder Daniel Svensson sent off in the first half, to move Spurs into automatic qualification territory for the knock-outs.

Italian champions Napoli are in danger of elimination after being held by Copenhagen to drop to 23rd place. Those finishing 25th or lower in the 36-team standings won't even qualify for the play-offs.

Copenhagen had captain Thomas Delaney sent off after a VAR check in the 35th and went behind to Scott McTominay's goal four minutes later before Jordan Larsson equalised.

Kairat were in no danger of registering their first three points of the campaign as the bottom side of the 36-team table were swept aside by Brugge, while Villarreal conceded in the 89th to lose to Ajax.—Agencies

Veteran Asif clinches national snooker golden jubilee title

By Our Sports Reporter

KARACHI: Mohammad Asif crowned a career of international achievement with a domestic pinnacle, defeating Rana Irfan 6-3 to win the NBP 50th National Snooker Championship and secure a record-extending fifth national title here at the NBP Sports Complex on Wednesday.

The three-time IBSF world champion, representing the National Bank of Pakistan, leveraged his vast experience to secure the golden jubilee title.

After sharing the opening two frames, Asif took control, winning four of the next five with a mix of tactical astuteness and scoring, including an 83 break in the third frame.

Irfan, the semi-final hero, provided a stunning highlight in the seventh frame, compiling a magnificent 141 clearance — the highest break of the entire championship.

The effort narrowed the deficit to 5-2 and offered a flicker of hope, but Asif swiftly extinguished the comeback by comfortably taking the ninth frame to seal his victory.

Following the match, a presentation ceremony was presided over by NBP president and CEO Rehmat Ali Hasnie and Pakistan Billiards and Snooker Association (PBSA) president Abdul Qadir Memon. Asif received the winner's trophy and a cash prize of Rs350,000.

Irfan was awarded Rs200,000 as runner-up and an additional Rs20,000 for his tournament-high 141 break.

The victory completes a dominant week for Asif, who dethroned the defending champion Shahid Aftab in the last-16 and dropped only seven frames in his final three knockout matches.

Andresen upstages stars to win Tour Down Under opener

ADELAIDE: Denmark's Tobias Lund Andresen upstaged a crack field of sprinters in a hectic finish to win the first stage of the Tour Down Under on Wednesday.

Andresen, riding for Decathlon CMA CGM, surged to the front in the main street of Tanunda, near Adelaide.

The Dane held off storming finishes from England's Matthew Brennan (Team Visma) and Australia's Sam Welsford (Ineos Grenadiers) to take the 120.6km stage in the UCI World Tour season opener.

The 23-year-old leads by one second in the general classification over Tuesday's Prologue winner Sam Watson (Ineos Grenadiers) with England's Ethan Vernon (NSN Cycling Team) a further second behind in third.

It was Andresen's first race with his new French team and timed his finish perfectly, coming off the wheel of Vernon and dashing clear while Brennan and Welsford had to angle their way through traffic.

"This is unbelievable, riding for the new team, the bike is so fast and my teammates did an incredible job," Andresen said.

"You need to be a little bit stupid to be a sprinter and enjoy a finish like this and we did exactly what we wanted to do.

"It's not often you can do what you want to do but today we managed to pull it off."

Brennan, who enjoyed a stellar 2025 season, including stage wins in the Volta a Catalunya, Tour de Romandie and Tour of Poland, just edged out Welsford, who was bidding for his seventh stage win in the Tour Down Under.

"We kind of got a little bit swamped just on the finish. I got stuck in the barriers there and couldn't really get out," Welsford said.

"I'm just kicking myself because I had to stop pedalling with 20 metres to the line. It is what it is."

Defending champion Jhonatan Narvaez (UAE Team Emirates), who won an early intermediate sprint, finished 26th.

Dutchman Max van der Meulen (Bahrain Victorious) had a heavy fall early in the stage and was taken to hospital for observation with the team reporting he was conscious.—AFP

DECATHLON CMA CGM's Danish rider Tobias Lund Andresen celebrates after winning the first stage of the Tour Down Under on Wednesday.—AFP

Shamyl, Mubasir score tons in President's Trophy

KARACHI: Centuries by Pakistan Television's (PTV) Shamyl Hussain and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines' (SNGPL) Mubasir Khan highlighted the opening day of the fifth round of the President's Trophy, which got underway across four venues here on Tuesday.

At the UBL Sports Complex, PTV reached a commanding 348-6 in 87 overs, powered by Shamyl's fluent 111 off 104 balls — his sixth first-class century — which included 12 fours and six sixes.

The right-hander added 167 for the opening stand with Waqar Hussain (69 off 118 balls, 10 fours) to put Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) under sustained pressure.

Mohammad Taha remained unbeaten on 82 off 166 balls with nine fours, while Mohammad Mohsin contributed 47 off 75 balls. KRL struck four times after PTV had crossed the 300-run mark, with pacer Mohammad Hamza finishing with 3-77 and Aqib Liaqat taking 2-73.

At the National Bank Stadium, Mubasir's unbeaten 113 (171 balls, 12 fours) and Mohammad Awais Zafar's 71 not out (148 balls, eight fours, one six) rescued SNGPL after an early wobble, guiding them to 308-4 in 86 overs with an unbroken 201-run partnership for the fifth wicket after they had slumped to 107-4.

Mir Hamza claimed three wickets, while fellow Test pacer Khurram Shahzad took one.

Earlier, SNGPL lost Abid Ali to a golden duck before Azan Awais (44), Omair Bin Yousuf (12) and Abdul Samad (36) made starts but failed to capitalise. Mubasir, registering his fifth first-class century, and Awais batted for 52.5 overs to blunt the Ghani Glass attack.

At the KCCA Stadium, Wapda pacer Naqeebullah claimed his second five-wicket haul in first-class cricket, returning figures of 5-36 from 18 overs as OGDCL were dismissed for 159 in 57.1 overs.

Danish Aziz top-scored for OGDCL with a resolute 69 off 106 balls, striking seven fours and a six after arriving at 29-4. Abbas Ali added 31, but no other batter managed to pass 13. Left-arm spinner Khalid Usman and Mohammad Asghar supported Naqeebullah with two wickets apiece.

In reply, Wapda were 56-2 in 24 overs at stumps, still trailing by 103 runs, with Mohammad Ammar unbeaten on 24 off 49 balls.

Meanwhile, at the State Bank Sports Complex, Sahir Associates finished on 229-7 in 83 overs against State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) after recovering from 54-4 thanks to half-centuries from Mohammad Mohsin Khan (62 off 99 balls, seven fours) and Mohammad Saleem, who was unbeaten on 59 off 161 balls with three fours and two sixes.

Mohammad Faiq made 48 off 109 balls, hitting eight fours and a six, before being dismissed by Saqlain Nawaz. For SBP, Niaz Khan was the most successful bowler with 3-28, while Kashif Bhatti and Mohammad Abbas took one wicket each. — Sports Reporter

Asian Masters weightlifting event postponed

ISLAMABAD: The second Asian Masters Weightlifting and Grand Prix Championship, which was scheduled to be held in Islamabad next month, has been postponed due to the ongoing unrest in Iran.

The Pakistan Masters Weightlifting Association (PMWA) said on Wednesday that the event will now be held from April 20 to 25, 2026 in the Pakistan capital. Quoting the International Masters Weightlifting Association, the PMWA stated that the IMWA after holding a meeting with it decided to postpone the event due to a number of reasons concerning Iran.

It is pertinent to mention here that most of Asian Masters Weightlifting Committee members are Iranians while Asian Master Weightlifting secretariat is run through Iran, where currently there is no internet connectivity.

"From the 21 nations participating in the event one fourth are from Iran. It is uncertain if any Iranian will be [able] to leave their country to travel to Pakistan for the event [originally] scheduled to be held from Feb 6 to 11, 2026. Fact is that other International Masters Athletes, coaches and technical officials' flights will use Iranian air space. Recently, most of the international/Asian airlines cancelled their flights to or flying over Iranian air space," read the IMWA letter.

The letter further said that registration will reopen to allow more athletes to participate in the event.—Sports Reporter

Jacobs returns to coach who led him to Olympic gold

ROME: Italian sprinter Marcell Jacobs has announced he is returning to work with the coach who guided him to a shock Olympic 100 metres title in 2021.

Jacobs, 31, had left Paolo Camossi's group to base himself in Florida with Rana Reider two years ago, but he says he is returning home.

"I am happy to return to work with Paolo Camossi. Together we wrote a beautiful page of Italian sport history and I think together we can write another," Jacobs said on the website of the Italian athletics federation.

"We are looking towards Los Angeles 2028. Now, we'll get back to work to create new emotions and satisfaction for those who have always supported me."

Since his stunning Olympic triumph in Tokyo, Jacobs has suffered a series of injuries and slipped down the world rankings, although he did finish fifth in the Olympic 100m final in Paris in 2024.—AFP